

Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy Markup of “H.R. 5174, H.R. 5175, H.R. 5239, H.R. 5240, H.R. 4606”
April 18, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

Today’s markup will include five important energy bills addressing cybersecurity, emergency preparedness, and energy security. All five bills are bipartisan and build upon the Committee’s impressive record of oversight, hearings, and previously enacted bills aimed at protecting and strengthening our nation’s energy infrastructure.

I’d like to begin by focusing my comments on one of the bills we’re calling up today, H.R. 5175, the *Pipeline and LNG Facility Cybersecurity Preparedness Act*, which I introduced with Mr. Loeb sack. As we’ve learned in classified briefings, and recently through the testimonies of Secretary Perry and our FERC Commissioners, cyber-attacks are a real and growing threat.

To quote Secretary Perry: *“As the nation’s top one-hundred pipelines alone supply nearly eighty-four percent of the nation’s energy, pipelines represent a critical part of North America’s energy backbone. A coordinated government approach to the cyber and physical security of pipelines, **led by the Department of Energy**, is essential to ensuring the safe and reliable flow of energy across the U.S.”*

My intent with the legislation is to strengthen DOE’s role to coordinate cyber-response, collaborate, and build capacity within States and the energy sector. This is **not a regulatory program, and we’re not authorizing DOE to develop mandatory minimum standards**. This bill is about conducting research, communicating threats, and coordinating the response across government.

Today’s markup will include other bills focused on these same themes, including a bill introduced by Mr. Walberg and Mr. Rush that updates the DOE Organization Act to strengthen its emergency response capabilities.

Mr. Latta and Mr. McNerney have taken the lead on two important bills related to the cybersecurity of our nation’s electric grid. H.R. 5239, the *Cyber Sense Act*, establishes a voluntary DOE that tests the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system. H.R. 5240, the *Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act*, requires DOE to establish a program to facilitate and encourage public-private partnerships to promote and advance the physical and cybersecurity of electric utilities that have fewer resources due to size or region. And finally, Mr. Johnson’s bill will streamline DOE’s process for approving small-scale shipments of liquefied natural gas, which will open-up new markets in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America for cleaner-burning natural gas.

Collectively, these bills represent an important step in the right direction in better protecting our nation’s energy infrastructure against cyber and physical threats and strengthening our energy security.

I want to thank our Members for their hard work on these bills. With that, I will yield back the balance of my time.